

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER
IPC 7 H01M8/24 H01M8/10

According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC

B. FIELDS SEARCHED

Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)
IPC 7 H01M

Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched

Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practical, search terms used)

EPO-Internal, WPI Data, PAJ

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category *	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
A	US 5 863 671 A (SPEAR JR REGINALD G ET AL) 26 January 1999 (1999-01-26) column 9, line 37 - line 60 -----	1-36
A	US 6 127 058 A (LANDRETH BOBBY DEAN ET AL) 3 October 2000 (2000-10-03) the whole document -----	1-36

☐ Further documents are listed in the continuation of box C.



Patent family members are listed in annex.

* Special categories of cited documents:

- *A* document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance
- *E* earlier document but published on or after the international filing date
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- *O* document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means
- *P* document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed

- *T* later document published after the international filing date or priority date and not in conflict with the application but cited to understand the principle or theory underlying the invention
- *X* document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is taken alone
- *Y* document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is combined with one or more other such documents, such combination being obvious to a person skilled in the art.
- *&* document member of the same patent family

Date of the actual completion of the international search

5 November 2004

Date of mailing of the international search report

16/11/2004

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Patent document cited in search report		Publication date	Patent family member(s)	Publication date
US 5863671	A	26-01-1999	AU 4193996 A	06-05-1996
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			CA 2220901 A1	21-11-1996
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			EP 0783770 A1	16-07-1997
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			WO 9612316 A1	25-04-1996
			WO 9637005 A1	21-11-1996
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			WO 0026980 A1	11-05-2000
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